



THOMAS R. IRVIN
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TOWN OF HOPKINTON

POLICE DEPARTMENT

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January 23, 2004

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: WT 02-55 - Improving Public Safety Communications in the 800 MHz Band

Dear Secretary Dortch,

Our town gains widespread attention every year when runners from around the world gather to begin their 26-mile run as part of the internationally known Boston Marathon. But, this exciting event is only one facet of the many attributes Hopkinton has to offer. Hopkinton is very much defined by the residents who have made this town their home. We have numerous volunteer programs and the town government contributes generously to community projects. This community partnership is a defining characteristic that has made our town a successful, enjoyable and safe place to live.

The members of the Hopkinton Police Department are equally committed to upholding and further strengthening this partnership between our organization and the community. We are guided by professional and community standards while we strive to provide the highest level of public safety. As such, we are extremely concerned about 800 MHz interference, affecting our first responder colleagues throughout Massachusetts and the country. Fifty incidents of interference have been reported in our state alone. This is a growing problem that will continue to impede the ability of public safety and could eventually compromise Hopkinton as well.

The Consensus Plan solves interference once and for all with a comprehensive strategy to realign the 800 MHz spectrum. Another key benefit of this Plan is that it's fully funded and does not impose any cost to over-extended public safety organizations or taxpayers.

The Consensus Plan is the solution. There are no other viable options that will actually proactively solve the problem of interference. Public safety has supported the Consensus Plan and now I ask for the Federal Communications Commission to do the same. You have been reviewing this issue for nearly two years. Now we need action. Please implement the Consensus Plan immediately.

Best regards,

Thomas R. Irvin
Chief of Police, Hopkinton Police Department